

Your mercy. Enable us, as Your free children, to move and act with responsibility, facing the consequences of all our decided words and actions today.

Give us faith, Lord, which is strong enough to sense Your presence in our midst and bold enough to seek Your holy inspiration in our ordered routine.

Then, in partnership with one another, empower us to broaden the field of justice and establish a Nation of mutual understanding and trust. So let us give You glory today and every day of our lives. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ETHANOL WILL SAVE US ALL?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, they told us that ethanol from corn would save us all—save us from global warming and dependence on foreign oil, but it just isn't so.

The rush to till up more farmland may turn out to be a crop disaster. Science Magazine reports that "using good crop land to expand biofuels will increase global warming." The reason is, now farmers will need to plow under more forests and massive grasslands to grow enough of that "savior" corn. But doing so will release carbon stored in plants and soils.

The new evidence indicates, "after taking into account worldwide land use changes, corn-based ethanol will increase greenhouse gasses by (a staggering) 93 percent compared to gasoline over a 30-year period."

It is only logical that if farmland once used to grow corn that we eat is used to grow corn that we burn as fuel, more land will be needed for both agricultural production and ethanol production.

So here comes the big wipe out of massive amounts of land, all to subsidize an unproven, unpredictable industry that is potentially hazardous to our health.

And that's just the way it is.

FISA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the 21-day FISA extension that our friends on the other side of the aisle fought hard to pass 2 weeks ago would have expired this week. This extension was the Democrat alternative to a permanent bill to provide our intelligence community with the tools they need to fight the war on terror, and yet we still have not voted on the bipartisan Senate bill, or any alternative bill for that matter. We've done nothing.

I believe this exposes the House leadership's plan for what it is, an abdication of their duty to provide our intelligence community with the tools needed to protect the United States.

It has been 17 days since the Protect America Act expired. In the words of the Democratic chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, our intelligence gathering capabilities have already been "degraded."

Contrary to what some say, there is urgency in this matter. We are losing out on obtaining new and evolving intelligence to enable our fight against terror. There are enough votes in the House to pass the bipartisan Senate bill. It's time for the Speaker to bring the legislation up for a vote.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 3, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 3, 2008, at 2:32 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the 2008 National Drug Control Strategy.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

2008 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-98)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committees on Armed Services, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Oversight and Government Reform, Small Business, Transportation and Infrastructure, Veterans' Affairs, and Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2008 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the provisions of section 201 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006.

My Administration published its first National Drug Control Strategy in 2002, inspired by a great moral imperative: we must reduce illegal drug use because, over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and of their character. Thanks to bipartisan support in the Congress; the work of Federal, State, local, and tribal officials; and the efforts of ordinary citizens, 6 years later fewer Americans know the sorrow of addiction.

We have learned much about the nature of drug use and drug markets, and have demonstrated what can be achieved with a balanced strategy that puts resources where they are needed most. Prevention programs are reaching Americans in their communities, schools, workplaces, and through the media, contributing to a 24 percent decline in youth drug use since 2001. Today, approximately 860,000 fewer young people are using drugs than in 2001. We have expanded access to treatment in public health settings, the criminal justice system, and in sectors of society where resources are limited. The Access to Recovery program alone has extended treatment services to an additional 190,000 Americans, exceeding its 3-year goal by over 50 percent. We have seized unprecedented amounts of illegal drugs and have denied drug traffickers and terrorists the profits they need to conduct their deadly work. During the first three quarters of 2007 we saw significant disruptions in the cocaine and methamphetamine markets, with prices rising by 44 percent and 73 percent, and purities falling by 15 percent and 31 percent, respectively.

These results do not mean that our work is done. Rather, they provide a charter for future efforts. By pursuing a balanced strategy that addresses the epidemiology of drug use and the economics of drug availability, we can further reduce drug use in America.